

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP MEETING, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1975

REFERENCE: (A) GENEVA 8986 (B) GENEVA 8270 (C) AMBASSADOR DALE-
HENNES TELCON

SUMMARY: ALL MEMBERS OF GG PRESENT. US CHAIRED MEETING
AND ALL BUT BELGIUM SPOKE. MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED
WERE: (A) DATE OF NEXT CONSULTATIVE MEETING; (B)
DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING DISCUSSION UN RESTRUCTURING
ON CL AGENDA; (C) FUTURE WORK PROGRAM OF GG (GENERAL).
THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON
WHETHER TIME WAS RIPE TO DISCUSS RESTRUCTURING.
THERE WAS RANGE OF VIEWS ON DATE OF NEXT MEETING
WITH JUNE 1976 THE CONSENSUS. THERE WAS WIDE AGREE-
MENT THAT GG SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISCUSS BUDGETARY
AND FINANCIAL COORDINATION BUT SHOULD ALSO EXPAND
ITS SCOPE. END SUMMARY.

1. DUTCH, WHOSE SPOKESMAN IS ABOUT TO DEPART
FROM GENEVA TO BECOME DCM IN WASHINGTON, TOOK LEAD
IN PRESSING FOR EARLY MEETING OF CONSULTATIVE LEVEL
GG AND EARLY DISCUSSION OF CONSEQUENCES OF RE-
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STRUCTURING FOR GG (GENERAL). HE LATER ADMITTED

THAT TRADITIONAL FEBRUARY DATE NOW OUT OF THE QUESTION BUT FAVORED EARLY SPRING DATE.

2. ONLY THE SWEDES SUPPORTED THE DUTCH IN PRESSING FOR MEETING IN EARLY 1976 PRIOR TO OUR RECEIPT OF TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS. OTHERS FAVORED "EARLY SUMMER," "BEFORE GA" OR SPECIFICALLY JUNE 1976. THE ITALIANS SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF WAITING UNTIL 1977, AND THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF THE DESIRABILITY OF SCHEDULING THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL ON A BIENNIAL BASIS, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE SUPPORT FOR THIS PROPOSAL. ONLY THE SWISS JOINED THE NETHERLANDS IN FORMALLY SUPPORTING THE DISCUSSION OF RESTRUCTURING AT THE NEXT CL MEETING. IF THERE WAS ANY CONSENSUS, IT WAS FOR A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE.

3. MOST DELEGATIONS FAVORED A CONTINUATION OF THE TRADITIONAL BUDGETARY WORK, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE OF VIEW AS TO WHETHER GG SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON SPECIFIC AGENCIES OR DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION TO GENERAL BUDGETARY PRINCIPLES. THE UK FELT PARTICULARLY STRONGLY THAT THE MOST VALUABLE WORK OF GG (GENERAL) IN 1975 HAS BEEN THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS PRIOR TO THE DISCUSSION OF BUDGETARY QUESTIONS IN PARTICULAR AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY THE REVIEW OF WMO. THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS ON WHAT, IF ANY, BUDGETARY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE CL. THE SWISS, JAPANESE, AUSTRALIANS, AND BRITISH FAVORED NEW ACTIVITIES, AND THE DUTCH PROPOSED DISCUSSING THE US LETTER OF INTENT ON WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO. THE US RESPONDED THAT HE WAS UNINSTRUCTED ON THIS PROPOSAL AND REFERRED TO THE US PROPOSAL ON POLITICIZATION IN THE FEBRUARY CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING AND ITS COOL RECEPTION.

4. THERE WAS MINOR CONSTERNATION WHEN THE CHAIRMAN (US) WAS CALLED OUT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY THROUGH THE MEETING AND RETURNED TO INFORM THE GROUP OF THE US SUPPORT FOR A MARCH DATE FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING. THE BRITISH CO-CHAIRMAN REACTED MOST STRONGLY POINTING OUT THE IMPRACTICABILITY OF A MARCH DATE. THE FORTHCOMING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND OTHER WORK COMMITMENTS WOULD PRECLUDE MUCH PREPARATION ON THE PART OF THE BRITISH PRIOR TO MARCH AND ALL THREE OFFICERS IN THE BRITISH MISSION ASSOCIATED WITH GG AFFAIRS WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE DURING MUCH OF

MARCH. HE ALSO WRITELY INFORMED THE GROUP THAT THE AMERICAN CO-CHAIRMAN WOULD BE ON HOME LEAVE AT THAT TIME. OTHERS ECHOED THE BRITISH VIEW ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF GEARING UP FOR A MARCH MEETING AND THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER WORK COMMITMENTS. IN HIS SUMMING UP THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT, WHILE THREE COUNTRIES FAVORED A MEETING IN MARCH OR EARLY SPRING, THERE REMAINED A CONSENSUS FOR MID-YEAR. HE SUGGESTED ANOTHER GG (GENERAL) MEETING IN EARLY JANUARY TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION FURTHER. THIS WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO. A MEETING OF GG (WHO) TO DISCUSS BUDGET FOR CY1977 WAS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 13 IN VIEW ARRIVAL DELEGATES TO WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING.

5. ACTION REQUIRED: WE ASSUME A TEL IS ON THE WAY CONFIRMING AND ELABORATING REF C. IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES WITH MARCH DATE, MISSION RECOMMENDS WE GO ALONG WITH JUNE DATE (MAY IS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF UNCTAD IV). WE NEED FURTHER GUIDANCE ON DEPT'S VIEWS OF AGENDA FOR CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING IN ADDITION TO THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAM OF GG (GENERAL) AND US POSITION ON DUTCH PROPOSAL TO DISCUSS ILO IN GG (GENERAL).DALE

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